

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Joint Strategic Economic Committee

1 July 2016

Questions from Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division, Wiltshire Council

Question 1 (Ref J0116)

I noted that the Swindon & Wiltshire LEP (SWLEP) Board meeting on 16 March discussed future priorities in a closed session. What was the reason for this? Shouldn't discussions of that kind be open to the public? I further noted that the meeting of 11 May had three confidential items in front of it that are not even listed on the published agenda. Is this acceptable practice for a body spending public funds? Is it consistent with the stated aim (4.2 of the Local Growth Deal 3 paper) of "a need for stronger, reformed governance structures"? Will the JSEC ask that these practices be reviewed and improved in the future?

Question 2 (Ref J0216)

Similarly, isn't it rather unfortunate that the report on European Structural Funding is restricted and to be discussed in closed session, given the current public interest on the future of European funding for this area? Will the JSEC agree to make a public statement on the situation?

Question 3 (Ref J0316)

When and where will the SWLEP's proposals for new funding priorities be made public, and will there be any opportunity for members of the public and / or Councillors to comment prior to submission by 28 July? Isn't this implicit in the aim of 'stronger collaboration with the local area (para 4.2 again)?

Question 4 (Ref J0416)

I represent the area of Chippenham station on Wiltshire Council. I have had no communication on the Chippenham Station Hub project, apart from the brief mention of the WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff consultancy in paragraph 2 of the Highlights Report. Will the JSEC agree that at least the local elected Councillor should be briefed on the main issues under consideration?

Question 5 (J0516)

What now is the timeline for decisions and implementation of the Chippenham Station Hub project?

Response

In accordance with the Wiltshire Council Rules of Procedure under which the JSEC operates, verbal responses will be provided at the meeting.